

# Stirling Lake Opening During COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to open Stirling Lake on July 4<sup>th</sup>, we are making some changes to the facility and our policies and procedures in order to comply with state and local orders and health department guidelines. We are not looking to be more restrictive than the current Executive Orders, Administrative Orders, NJ DOH and local DOH guidelines, but we are certainly working to follow them. Please understand that since the outbreak of COVID-19, our understandings of how to best mitigate the risks continue to grow, and guidelines are continually changing. We will evolve as well to follow current guidelines. As of this moment, these are the changes we are anticipating when we open on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

You will note when you see the fees for lake badges this year, they are substantially reduced to reflect the reduced amenities and capacity restrictions. We do understand that some patrons may feel the changes are either too restrictive or perhaps not restrictive enough. However, everyone should understand they are not negotiable and will only be changed if the guidelines change.

Thank you for your understanding.

## **Facility Changes:**

- \*All patrons must bring their own beach chairs/towels/blankets. The loungers and chairs normally provided at the facility would not be available.
- \*The Wibit (inflatable obstacle course anchored in the middle of the lake) will not be installed this year.
- \*The slide on the "F Dock" will not be installed. For safety reasons, the ladders on the docks will still be installed. However, a schedule will be implemented with staff to regularly wipe down touch surfaces above water.
- \*The bathrooms that are usually cleaned 3x/week will move to 7 days/week cleaning with disinfecting wipes/disinfecting spray in each bathroom so that each patron can wipe down touch surfaces after each use. Routine inspections and monitoring of bathrooms for cleanliness will be part of the lake staff schedule.
- \*Kayaks and paddleboards will be wiped with disinfecting cloths after each use by staff.
- \*Picnic tables and benches at the facility will not be available to patrons and will be roped off.
- \*Beach toys held at the facility and routinely available for patrons to borrow will not be available this year. Patrons will bring their own toys for playing in the sand and castle building, etc.
- \*Beach volleyball will not be installed unless guidelines should change.
- \*The playground will remain closed unless guidelines should change.
- \*Large group gatherings for picnics under the pavilion, birthday parties, and celebrations will not be permitted.

\*The water fountain at the facility will not be operational. The foot shower will be available but will be wiped down after each use by patrons and also routinely disinfected by lake staff during the hours of operation.

### **Staff Changes:**

\*All lifeguards will have to wear cloth face coverings unless swimming or stationary on stand, break, etc. Patrons will be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and must wear them when using the bathroom facilities and anywhere 6' social distancing cannot be maintained such as when checking in at "Badge Check". Of course they should not be used when in the water or swimming. (Patrons under the age of two or those who have a health condition where it would be harmful for them to wear a face covering are exempt but they still must maintain 6'+ social distancing.)

\*Staff will routinely wipe down all surfaces in and around the office/guard house and minimize employee use of the guard house. At no time shall patrons be permitted to enter the guard house.

\*Daily temperature checks will be taken for employees at the start of each shift. Anyone with a fever (100.4+) or COVID-19 symptoms (Fever or chills • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache • New loss of taste or smell • Sore throat • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or Diarrhea) will be sent home and may not return until management receives a doctor's note allowing employee to return to work with no restrictions.

\*Lifeguard stands will have to be disinfected at each shift change.

\*Lifeguard drills will be modified to follow guidelines.

\*Online training will include additional training on COVID-19 guidelines and safety procedures.

### **Changes for Patrons:**

\*Patrons will be provided with a list of changes expected to be implemented at the lake at the time they are registering for memberships. We will attempt to make this list as comprehensive as possible understanding that policy makers and the regulatory health agencies are learning better ways continually to manage this virus and mitigate the risks, and this process is constantly evolving.

\*We will limit the number of members that may be at the lake at any given time to 50% of capacity allowing for appropriate social distancing while at the facility. Patrons will be advised up front that each day when we reach that capacity, we will not allow additional patrons beyond that even though they have a membership. Maximum capacity will be limited to 250 when we open on 7/4.

\*In the past, day passes for Long Hill residents have been available for purchase at the gate. This year, we will not allow that practice in order to control our capacity limits and satisfy our patrons with memberships first.

\*Families will be limited on the number of guest passes they may purchase at the gate to two (2) on any given day. As always, members are responsible for ensuring their guests comply with our rules. Guest Pass Booklets will not be available this season.

\*Gatherings, birthday parties, and celebrations which have usually been a part of the culture at the lake in past years will not be permitted due to the new guidelines.

\*Family Fun Day will be modified this year to comply with the guidelines.

\*We may not be able to offer swim lessons this year.

\*As always, if patrons do not follow the rules of the facility, they are subject to loss of privileges at the facility.

\*Upon registration, you will be asked to agree to the following waiver:

### **Communicable Disease/COVID-19**

I acknowledge that the contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus as well as other communicable diseases will cause the Township of Long Hill Parks & Recreation Department ("Department") to adjust their policies and procedures while conducting activities and events. In an effort to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and other health agencies, I may be subject to additional guidelines at these events. The Department will make these additional requirements known to me at the time of registration or as soon as possible thereafter. I understand that in order to participate, or in order for my child to participate, I will have to follow these additional policies and procedures. I also understand that if either I or my child becomes ill, they will be prohibited from participation in Department activities and will not be able to return to activities without medical clearance. Further, I agree to hold the Township of Long Hill and its employees harmless from risk, injury or damage suffered including contraction of a communicable disease during the same timeframe I attend an activity.